

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for listening to my comments regarding Broadband Over Powerlines (BPL). I am licensed in the Amateur Radio Service and hold an Amateur Extra Class license. I have reviewed the information available on this topic and have found it clearly represents a danger to the continued service amateurs provide to our communities.

The amount of noise and interference BPL projects across huge areas of the radio spectrum is truly amazing. It would be a great method of severely hampering any countries communications with whom we were at war -- if we could only cause them to implement its use. We certainly should avoid this harmful interference in our own country.

I am an active member of my local Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and am making application to Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). These organized groups of amateur radio operators provide critical emergency communications all across America at no cost to the public and provide their own equipment and almost without exception act as professionals.

Lives are saved every year due to the efforts of amateur radio operators, ranging from early warnings of sited tornadoes and other severe weather reports to the National Weather Service, to search and rescue missions, to coordinating wild fire fighting efforts in our Western states, just to mention a few.

Should the FCC grant permission to enact BPL as currently planned amateur radio operators, as well as many police and fire departments, will have their ability to communicate severely damaged. Long range communications, such as used by amateur radio operators when reporting hurricane conditions to those in the affected area, will essentially cease to exist.

The amount of "radio frequency pollution" created by BPL is appalling! There simply has to be a method of providing the desired Internet access without eradicating the ability of The Amateur Radio Service to provide emergency communication for our country.

I thought the events of 9-11 have taught us the importance of maintaining our ability to communicate under duress. Amateur radio is the only means of emergency communication that is wide spread, free to the public, and completely reliable! The Amateur Radio Service is a very important aspect of our countries security, and it must be protected.

Please, revisit this issue and require the power companies to find a means of attaining their goals that also ensures the continued vitality of the Amateur Radio Service!

Sincerely yours,

Erik E. Weaver, n0ew